

## Freedom: A New Dawn

**Texts: John 8:31-36 Sunday, October 26, 2025**

### **Introduction:**

Over ten years ago, I sat down in my church office with a prostitute. I had spoken to her before, prayed with her and she had said that a spirit left her when I prayed. She had been off the street and off drugs for a long while. Now she fell back into it. "I don't want to do it," she said, "but I just cannot help myself." As we spoke her phone rang, and she said she had to go. A "client" had called, she told me honestly. I didn't even have time to pray with her. I hugged her and told her that I don't care what she is doing, that I loved her and that Jesus loves her more. "Come to church regardless," I said as she left in tears. I prayed, "She needs deliverance Lord, please deliver her! She is bound, set her free!"

### **1. So are we really Free?**

As I sat there, my heart sore and my prayers desperate, I realized, "Hey, this woman's situation is not any different from mine. There are things I do not want to do, but I just can't help myself." Sounds like someone else I read about. Yes, Paul said that too. In Romans 7: The good that I want to do...

So what about this promise then in today's Gospel that whom the Son of Man has set free is free indeed? Jesus was talking to the Jews that believed in Him, but I am not free, right? Neither is the Apostle Paul, let alone all of us sitting here? We are still slaves, aren't we? Are we really free?

How many of us are praying for deliverance? For freedom?  
Freedom from bondage to unhealthy behavior, bad habits, anger,

addictions, bad attitudes, bondage to hatred, bondage to negative talk and thoughts, bondage to fear, bondage to worry? How many of us want to be free to love freely? How many of us want to be freed from doubt and mistrust – of our loved ones AND of God?

Yes, many of us need deliverance, yet we say we are saved. We say we are children of God. We say we were once bound but now are free, and all that! But we struggle. So what is the deal here?

## **2. The Accuser**

Satan, described as the accuser (Rev. 12:10) stands there, pointing out my sin. So you had a great day. Did some great deeds. Helped someone. Just finished reading your Bible from cover to cover for the third time. Then you fall! Anger, worry, fear, depression,... the list goes on. So Satan says, “but you just told people to be bold, to not short-change themselves, and all those positive things! Now... you are depressed.” So it’s bad enough that the poor guy is depressed; the Accuser adds insult to injury, by reminding him that he is sinning by worrying because that’s not trusting God! Yes, that is what the Accuser does. He puts judgment in your mind. Just a little spark, like a fire lighter amongst the coals. So my mind takes over from the fire-lighter, and fans the whole condition into a hell-fire! I say, “Yes, I should know better; I should not be depressed. I should not do this or that... or be this sinner.”

The accuser and our minds point out the list of do’s and don’ts. That’s the Law continuing to condemn. We don’t give ourselves a break. We know we should, but we don’t, and we sit there in the shade of our growing sin, watering the cursed tree of our sin with our tears of self-pity and defeat - like Jeremiah the prophet!

### **3. Then the Cross**

There is the tree of our growing sin, but through Christ it's not going to grow much longer. Fall, I mean "Autumn", is coming and this tree of our sin is not an evergreen! This tree is going to come up against another tree! That tree that carries all the nails. You know what I am talking about, right. That tree that was the Cross – "*they are nailed to that Cross...*", says the hymn. "Get up", Jesus says, "What are you sitting there like a tramp? What are you sitting there like a failure? Like a slave, cowering before everyone? Get up and follow me!" "There's work to be done!" No time for pity-parties!

While the accuser stands and presents his case, the Lord Jesus says, "Yes, guilty by the Law, but I have paid the price. I have paid it in full. I served her life sentence." "Free to go", says the judge.

### **4. No strings attached.**

While we sin, by grace we do not sit in it. Grace gets us up to confess, accept forgiveness and live for Christ. We are not slaves anymore; we are free. We don't have to pay any price. Happy Reformation Day. Tina was forgiven and eventually delivered. The church showed her Love. Jesus showed her love through the church, not judgment or asking her to pay the church in order to be pardoned, an issue that Luther addressed in his 95 theses.

Yes, we are free. Free at last. Free Free! Whom the Son of Man has set free is free indeed. So let's go out there, walking tall, flicking the falls and the skirmishes off our shoulders, with our eyes on the prize. Alleluia I am free at last! My freedom and yours, it's a New Dawn! Happy Reformation Day!